ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT CONCORD,

RUSSELL COUNTY ALA.

September 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th,

1842.

LA FAYETTE, ALA.
PRINTED AT THE "STANDARD" OFFICE.

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ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES, &c.

1st. The introductory sermon was delivered by brother B. H. Wilson, from the 6th verse, of the first chapter, of Philippians:—"Being, confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

2. Convened in the house. Prayer by brother Callaway.

3 Received and read letters from the different churches, composing this Association; which reported the delegates names, and the state of the churches.

4. Elected, Rev. F. Callaway, Moderator, and Britton Stamps, Clerk.

5. Invited visiting ministers of our order, to seats in this body.

6. Opened a door, for the admission of churches, and received by letter and delegates, the following churches, to wit: Rocky Mount, Chambers county, Spring Hill, Chambers county, Padanaram, Macon county, Crockettsville, (formerly Uchee Fork,) Russell county, Pine Level, Macon county, Bethel, Tallapoosa county, and Bethany, Russell county.

7. Called for correspondence. Received and extended the right hand of fellowship, to brother Murphy, from Western Ga. brethren. Harrelson, Brasier, and Blakey, from the Alabama; brethren J. S. Callaway, and R. M. Stell, from the Flint river Ga.; brother Jeremiah Thornton from the Columbus Ga.; from Tallapoosa a letter and minutes; and from the Sarepta Georgia, a packet of minutes.

8. The following committees, were appointed: to arrange preaching, brethren, R. Thornton, L. Matthews, D. Thornton, N. Long, and G. W. Gunn; to arrange business, to be brought before the body, brethren Jefferson Falkner, Obadiah Echols, John Britton, Willis B. Jones, and Samuel Morris; and brethren G. W. Gunn, and Charles Bussy on Finances.

9. Committee on preaching, reported the following order of service for sabbath day, viz: Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock A. M. a sermon at 11 by brother R. M. Steel, followed by exhortation, by brother B. H. Wilson, a sermon in the afternoon, by brother J. S. Callaway, followed by exhortation by brother F. Callaway. The Association then adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M. Monday morning. Prayer by J. S. Callaway.

10 Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, A. M. The stand was then occupied by the preachers and exhorting brethren, surrounded by a large congregation, and we indulge a hope, that much good may result, from the labours of the day, at the close of which saints rejoiced, and sinners were made to mourn.

MONDAY MORNING.

11. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Spurlin.

12. Whereas the Lord has abundantly blessed us, in the bounds of this Association, the present year, by a wonderful outpouring of his holy spirit, in many places. On motion the association resolved to suspend all business for some time, and then engaged, about fifty minutes, in thanks giving and prayer, to Almighty God, for the gracious dealings towards us as a people the present year, and that he would bless us more abundantly, the ensuing year.

13. Appointed correspondents to sister Associations viz: To the Coosa, brethren Washington Thornton, Samuel Morris; and J. Falkner, brother Echols to write; to the Western Ga., brethren William Lacy, and Jas. M. Spurlin, to be held at Antioch, Meriweather county, on Saturday before the third Sabbath in September 1843; brother Wilson to write; to the Columbus, brethren

J. M. Watt, D. B. Culberson, Wm. Harrington, and Obadiah Echols, to be held at Bethleham, Harris county Ga., on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October 1842; brother Britton to write; to the Flint river Ga., brethren S. Morris, B. Wilson, B. Goss, J. M. Spurlin, J. Falkner, J. Britton, O. Echols, & Wiatt, to be held at Antioch, Fayette county Ga., on Saturday before the third Sabbath in July 1843; brother Goss to write; to the Tallasahachy, brethren F. Callaway, G. W. Gunn, and C. Bussy; brother Bussy to write; to the Alabama brethren, Lewis, and Long, to be held at Union Church, Autaga county, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October 1842; brother Gunn to write; to the Tallapoosa, brethren C. J. Adkins, and D. H. M'coy, to be held at Eden, Carroll county Ga., on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October 1842; brother Lanier to write; to Salem, brethren Culberson, Davis, Dobbs, Long, Drake, Cadenhead, Lanier, W. H. Goldsmith, and West; brother Watt to write; and to the Sarepta, Ga.; a packet of minutes.

14. Took up the difficulty in relation to the Smyrna Church; Church as presented by Concord Church. On motion, it was Resolved, That the case be referred back, to Concord Church, with advice to act, in pursuance with the advice given in the Constitution of this Association.

15. Elected brethren, J. Falkner to preach the next Introductory Sermon, brother Britton his alternate, and brother J. R. Sorter to write the next Circular letter.

16. The Circular letter read and received.

17. *Resolved*, That it be published in the minutes, that the next Ministers and Deacons meeting, will be held in Lafayette, to commence on Thursday, before the fifth Sabbath, in July 1843.

18. Appointed Union Meetings, viz: The first District at the Central Stand, Chambers County, to commence on Friday before the second Sabbath in Sept. 1843; brethren Britton, Harrington, Granberry, W. Thornton, Wilson, Hunter and Culberson, to attend; second District, Sandy Creek, Tallapoosa County, to commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in August; brethren W. Thornton, Spurlin, Culberson and Echols, to attend; third District, Liberty

Chambers County, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in June; brethren Wiatt, Watt and Echols, to attend; fourth District at Poolar Springs, Macon County, to commence on Saturday before the first Sabbath in July; brethren Watson, Harrington and Wilson, to attend. Prayer by the Moderator, then adjourned until Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING.

19. Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Brother Spurlin.

20. Called the roll and noted absentees.

21. Appointed the next meeting of this body to be held with the Church at Goolhope, Russel County, to commence on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1843.

22. Took up the question in relation to becoming a constitue member of the Baptist State Convention of Alabama. It was therefore resolved, that this body make application to the next meeting of that body, to become a component member—but no Church, or individual, in our bounds shall at any time be under any obligation, from such union, to contribute to the purposes or objects of the same.

23. Elected brethren Callaway, Jones, R. Thornton, Culberson, Wilson, Falkner and Britton; (and in case of failure,) brethren Echols, Gunn, Stamps, D. Thornton, delegates to the Convention, and appointed brethren Callaway, Stamps and Gunn, a Committee to prepare a letter.

24. Received the report of the Executive Committee marked A.

25. Appointed brethren Callaway, Stamps, Russel, Aldridge, D. Thornton, Christian, W. H. Goldsmith, executive committee for the ensuing year; And it is therefore resolved that the Committee be authorised to employ two itinerant preachers, to travel and preach under the direction of the committee, the ensuing year; and the Association stands pledged to sustain the Committee.

26. Received the report of the Committee on finance marked B.

27. Corresponding letters read and received.

28. Dismissed by letter the church at Lebanon Heard County Georgia.

29. Whereas there are but two weekly papers published by our denomination, in the whole United States, or the whole continent of America, that dare to oppose, or even remotely allude to the mad proceedings of the Abolitionists. It is therefore Resolved, that the Christian Index published in Penfield, Georgia, be recommended to the patronage of our denomination.

30. *Resolved*, That we approve of the intentions of brother Jos. Baker, in publishing a paper under the title of the Baptist Expositer, and South Western Intelligencer, and recommend our brethren to encourage brother Baker in his laudable efforts.

A

31. Your committee, in compliance with the resolution of your body at her last session, proceeded in the discharge of the duties assigned them; and take pleasure in communicating to you; that they engaged the services of two worthy brethren, to labor in the destitute bounds of the Association; to wit: Benjamin H. Wilson, and Joel Nichols, each of whom have been laboring in the destitute bounds assigned them, as (your committee believe,) with much good effect. In fact, your committee are informed that the approving blessing of God, has attended their labors generally. From the report of brother Wilson, we learn, that he commenced his labours early in February, and continued to labor, in the bounds of this body up to a short time since except a short period when prevented by body affliction: But reports his labours, in the destitute bounds to be sixty days, for which your committee have allowed him sixty dollars, he also reports five hundred and ninety three miles travel: seventy five sermons; besides numerous lectures; that he aided in the Constitution of two churches, the ordination of one minister, and two Deacons. Brother Nichols commenced his labors, about the same time and continued up to the meeting of your body, with the exception of five days labour at home, he reports one hundred and forty one days service actually rendered, in the destitute bounds, for which your committee have allowed to him the sum of one hundred and forty one dollars. He reports fourteen hundred and eighty one miles travel, one hundred and twelve sermons, and received three dollars for Missionary purposes.

32. *Resolved*, That the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of 2000 copies of these minutes and that he receive for his services $25,00.

B

33. *Report of the Financial Committee.*

Funds in the hands of the Clerk for Domestic Missions, from 1841,	$114 31
Collected on subscription from last year,	36 00
Amount sent up by some of the churches,	138 40
Collection on Sabbath 25th September,	26 50
Collected by brother Nichols,	3 00
Paid by brother B. Mott,	5 00
" " W. H. Goldsmith,	5 00
" " J. Falkner,	1 00
" " L. Kinebrew,	1 00
Balance due on subscription from last year,	7 00
	$337 21

Expenditures.

Amount paid brother B. H. Wilson,	$60	
" " J. Nichols	141	
Balance in hand and due for Missions,		$136 21

Contributions for Minutes &c.

Balance in the hands of the Clerk from last year;		$13 03
Amount sent up by the Churches,		69 18
		$82 21
Amount paid Clerk	$25 00	
Paid for printing and stitching minutes.	63 00	
	$85 00	
		$88 00

F. CALLAWAY, *Moderator.*

BRITTON STAMPS, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR.

The Liberty Baptist Association to the Churches of which she is composed, sendeth Christian love in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Brethren:—From the earliest organization of Baptist associations, it has been customary to address the churches with a Circular Letter. We therefore, propose to address you on a subject of general interest, that you may be edified, and encouraged in the discharge of your duty, and thereby become instrumental in promoting and furthering the cause of the blessed Redeemer, in the world.—The church of Christ occupies an important station—it is the light of the world, and the salt of the earth, it is therefore the duty of each member honestly, to enquire, Lord what wilt thou have me to do, that we may manifest our love to that Saviour that has loved us, and gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity; and purify unto himself, a peculiar people, zealous of good works. The scriptures are a sufficient directory for faith and practice. We would therefore recommend prayerful reading of the same, as the best means in connection with the Gospel, to learn our duty, and the

highest inducement to the performances of the same, is to be found in the exceeding great and precious promises in God's word. if what is there recommended, be strictly attended to, there would be but little use for Circular Letter in our Minutes, as each member that can, may read every day, portions of the word of God, suited to their particular situation; which has the impresss of that spirit, by which the word of God was given to us. The word of God, has an authority, force, sweetness and benefit, that no human production can have. But we have thought it necessary, to present to you for your prayerful reflection, some subject of general interest, which may be found in the 10th Chapter of Luke and 2nd. verse—"The Harvest truly is great, but the laborers, are few, pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" If we consider the moral condition of the world at that time, and the number that the Lord had called and sent out to preach, and labor together in the purchase of a dear Redeemers blood. The Apostles were to confine their labors to the Jews, until the day of Pentecost; after which time, they were to preach the Gospel to every creature. For the commission is, "go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believeth, and is Baptized, shall be saved, and he that believeth not, will be damned." At the time referred to, when he directed his Disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into his harvest, saying, the harvest truly is great, but the Laborers are few. The number then consisted of twelve Apostles, and seventy Disciples, whom he had called and sent to preach his Gospel, he sent them forth giving this direction, "carry neither purse nor script, nor shoes," but they were to say, the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and power was given them to work miracles, which at that time and while they were continued, were intended to confirm and establish the Gospel; for the Apostles declared it was in the name Jesus they wrought miracles, and it is certainly clear that they were to be supported, for he said the laborer is worthy of his hire, the harvest was truly great then, what was eighty-two preachers to supply a large nation of Jews; besides the Gospel was soon to be given to the Gentile nation. The Lord could readily perceive, that there was a necessity and fitness to pray for more laborers, as it is the economy of Gods grace to bestow blessings on the Church and world in answer to prayer, but we live when God has been pleased, in answer to prayer, to raise up and send out in all the United States, and in the different countries preachers, but is there not considerable destitution yet in the bounds of our Association and in other places, and the most of our preachers are on the

decline of life, and of course the energies in the Gospel must decline. The Lord has revived some of the Churches, and there has been large accessions of young men. Is it not the duty of the Churches to pray that God would revive the Churches, and raise up in their bounds preachers and exhorters, and a race of Christians that will be active in the discharge of their christian duties, such as Barnabas was, full of the Holy Ghost and faith, and much people were added to the Lord.

It is a circumstance, that should be regarded with no small degree of interest that there are several licensed ministers and exhorters in our bounds, since our last Association, Oh, that effectual fervent prayer might be offered to the Lord, for an increase; it is certainly the duty of each member, to pray for an increase of labours in the harvest of the Lord, but this prayer is seldom heard, there is certainly great neglect on this subject, there was a diversity of gifts in the Church in the Apostles day, as we learn by reference to the 12th chapter of Romans, 12th chap. first Corinthians, and 4th chap. Ephesians. It is reasonable to suppose that the same gifts are to be continued in the Church to the end of the world, except those which were of a miraculous character. The Church is regarded to a body, which contains many members, but there is not a useless member in the body of Christ, but each is to perform some office, or fill a place of usefulness in the Church.

It is to be much lamented, that there are so few members that pray in public, in prayer meetings, and it is to be feared prayer in publick entirely, they do not pray with their families, nor in the Church, there is too many Churches that nearly all the publick service is performed by the Minister, and a few other members; this ought not so to be, nor can we believe, such Churches will have much increase. It may be enquired why are there so many that neglect to perform all kind of public service for the Lord, is it because they are destitute of talent, or is it because they have buried their talents? it is the duty of every member to improve the tallents, which God has bestowed on them, if they would have the approval, "that thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many," we believe that not a few Christians, live in the neglect of known or acknowledged duty; and why is it so, because they confer with flesh and blood, and seek to be excused, but we find that those Churches that are favored with much increase, are uniformly composed of active laborious members, each laboring in his proper sphere, nor would we neglect to stir up the pure minds of our sisters,

in the good work of the Lord. It is evident that they rendered essential service in promoting the spread of the Gospel, in the Apostles day, although they are not to speak in the Church, yet they may in various ways, help to gather in the harvest of souls.

We will conclude this short address, by an exhortation to the ministers and members, of the several Churches composing the Association, to be active and laborious in the discharge of their duty, in the service of their blessed Lord, for the harvest is truly great and the laborers are few, and pray the Lord to send forth more laborers to reap the harvest.

To aged ministers we especially address a few words, it will not be long before the Lord will call you from the field of labor, to reap a glorious reward. Eternity will more than make the amends, for all losses, and crosses, if indeed you like Paul shall be ready to depart, having fought a good fight, having kept the faith, you will receive a crown of righteousness, and not only ministers but all that love his appearing. Therefore beloved brethren, be ye steadfast immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

FRANCIS CALLAWAY, *Moderator.*

BRITTON STAMPS, *Clerk.*

Scale of the

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.
		FIRST DISTRICT.
Bethel,	Chambers,	BENAJAH GOSS, Asa M. Hunter;✠
High Pine,	Randolph,	James M. Mickl, William S. Walker;
State Line,	Heard, Ga.	JAMES M. SPURLIN, Wade H. Ray;
Shiloh,	Chambers,	Green W. Carlisle, Asa C. A. Simmons;
New hope,	"	William Stanley ✠ Daniel H. M. Coy;
M. Donald,	Randolph,	JEFFERSON FALKNER, Jeremiah Stallions;‡
Lebanon,	Heard, Ga.	Moses Jones, William Jones;
Ebenezer,	Randolph,	Barnett Kinard, W. W. Wood;
Antioch,	"	G. C. Powell ‡ Robert Woodard;
New Hope,	"	No representation; No. of 18 1.
Springville,	Chambers,	Caswell Bethcock, Lewel Welch;
		SECOND DISTRICT.
Antioch,	Chambers,	FRANCIS CALAWAY, Thomas Christian;
Countyline,	Chambers,	WILLIAM A. HUNTER, Charles Bass;
La Fayette,	"	WILLIAM LACY Britton Stamps, George W. Gunn;
Sandy Creek,	Tallapoosa,	BENJAMIN H. WILSON, W. C. WILL;✠
Liberty,		No representation;
New Providence,	"	No representation;
Mount Pleasant,	Chambers,	Benjamin Walker, Madison Goldsmith;
Hunkaw,	Tallapoosa,	Joseph Yarbrough,‡ William Hood;
Mount Zion,	Chambers,	Hiram Bently, John Howard;
Rock Spring,	"	Abner Webb Jacob Stilwell;
Bethel,	Tallapoosa,	Littleberry Knebrew, Madison D. Kinghrow;
Sardis,	Chambers,	William H. Goldsmith, Charles Gregory;
		THIRD DISTRICT.
Bethodist,	"	Washington Thornton,✠ Dozier Thornton;
Concord,	Russell,	REUBEN THORNTON, L. Mathews;
Liberty,	Chambers,	THOMAS GRANBERY, James Anderson;
County line,	Russell,	Wiley Davis, William F. Swift;
West Point,	Chambers,	Samuel Morris,✠ Robert V. Gardner;
Bethlehem,	"	JACOB WATSON, William Harrington,✠
Rocky Mount,	Chambers,	JOEL NICKOLS, Britton Blackmore;
		FOURTH DISTRICT.
Auburn,	Macon,	OBADIAH ECKOLS, William B. Ously;
Good Hope,	Russell,	N. W. Long, M. W. Davis?
Smyrna,	Macon.	J. P. W. Brown,✠ C. J. Adkins;
Concord,	"	JOHN R. SORTER, John Miles;
Liberty Hill,	"	James Torbet,‡ Peter H. Gross;‡
Farmville,	"	WILLIS B. JONES, Micajah Bedel;
Union Spring,	Russell,	John West;
Salem,	Macon,	JOHN BRITTON, Benjamin Mott;
Tuskegee,	"	Simpson Lanier, William B. Lewis;
Poplar Spring,	"	P. H. Drake, John Skinner;
Crocketsville,	Russell,	James M. Watt,✠ J. T. Cloud;‡
Paduanarum,	Macon,	J. D. Ibbs, T. Pace;
Pine Level,	"	DAVID B. CULBERSON, William Iverson;
Bethany,	Russell,	BRITTON M. WARE, J. B. Swearingan.

‡ ✠ Signatures—3rd and 4th Ministers in small capitals—✠ Licensed Preachers.

Churches.

Baptized	Received by letter	Restored	Dismissed by letter	Excommunicated	Died	Total number	Ministers	Deacons	For Ministers.	POST OFFICES.
36	12	1	5	4	1	100	4	5 00	2 00	Woodbark.
4	0	0	13	1	0	70	3		2 00	do
20	4	0		0	0	54	3		2 00	Liberty Hill.
49	9	1	4		0	70	1		2 00	Mount Hickory
10	8	0	13	4	2	60	5		2 00	Fredonia
0	0	0	1	0	0	66	4		1 00	Mercerfield.
7	3	1	2	0	0	20	4		1 00	
21	15	0	4	1	0	46	2		1 50	Factory Shoal
2	2	0	2	0	0	12			50	Lochobe.
						54	1			
5	1					12				
22	10	0	10		1	10	4	4 50	2 00	Shagon.
47	8	2	13	0	0	111	2	16	3 00	Dudleyville.
15	15	2	13	3	1	17	1	17 0	4 00	La Fayette
49	25	0	3	0	0	94	1	1 1	2 00	County Line.
						16				Dadeville.
						15				do
72	20	0	11	0		148	3	9 00	2 40	Sharon.
5	1	0	2	1	0	10	2		1 00	Horse Shoe Bend.
10	5	0	8	1	1	23	3		1 50	Dudleyville.
27	9	0	0	0	0	6	1		2 00	La Fayette.
3	10	0	0	0	0	35		1 0	1 00	
55	6	2	55	1	2	122			2 50	Gold Hill
26	11	1	7	4	2	109	2	6 00	3 00	Cusseta.
9	11	0	17	0	0	135	1	6 37	4 00	Lover.
2	0	0	4	1	0	50	4	2 28	2 00	Mount Jefferson.
3	10	0	5	0	1	50	1	3 00	1 50	Wacoochee.
1	7	0	4		0	80	1	4 00	1 50	West Point.
47	8	0	15			0	1	7 00	1 50	do
2	15	0	0	0	0	27	1		1 00	Wacoochee.
9	8	0	2	0	0	71	4	2 56	1 50	Auburn.
27	19	0	1	5	1	124	1	12 0	5 00	Uchefork
7	1	2	2	3	0	63	3	1 0	2 00	Tuskegee
3	6	0	1	0	0	58	1	1 00	2 01	Wacoochee.
20	4	1	2	1	1	57	1	8 3	1 00	Society Hill.
3	8	1	2	3	1	85	3	10 00	1 50	Auburn.
0	0	0	8	1	0	24	3	6 00	1 00	Sandfort.
7	5	0	1	0	1	91	4		1 00	Tuskegee.
1	9	0	2	1	0	26	1	1 00	1 00	do
3	0	0		1	0	15	1	2 0	1 12	Auburn.
						16	4		1 00	Crockettville.
4	7	0	0	0		17		1 75	1 00	Batubridge.
10	3	0	0	0	0	58			1 50	
						52	3	1 00	1 0	Gerard
653	241	17	253	38	15	2550	113	40 9	151	